Policemen and Firemen -1926

Arkansas.

Negro Deupty Sherriff Told To Leave City

Pine Bluff, Ark., June 2 (PNS)—William Collins, Negro Deputy Sheriff who shot and killed Charles Bennett, after Bennett had killed Deputy Sheriff Bryan Vict in the Sweden dance hall early Monday, has received an anonymous telephone message warning him to leave town. The call answered by Desk Sergeant L. M. Smith at police headquarters.

Collins said that he would not leave the city. Authorities are investigating the source of the message.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926 California.

Colored Officer Made Detective Captain

Los Angeles, Calif., June.—(P. C. N.) After over 20 years of faithful service as a member of the Los Angeles police force, W. W. Glenn, assistant captain of detectives, has finally received his rightful title of Captain, the only position of its kind held by a colored man west of Chicago.

Thru an order issued by the Los Angeles Police Commission the rank of captain of detectives was officially changed to chief of detectives and the 14 men now holding the rank of assistant captain of detectives changed to captain of detectives.

Colored Police Officer Now A Detective Captain

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THE NEGRO FIGHTERS OF LOS ANGELES

By Henry Jones

No record of the growth and development of the City of Los Angeles can be written without setting forth achievements of the colored unit of Fire Fighters of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

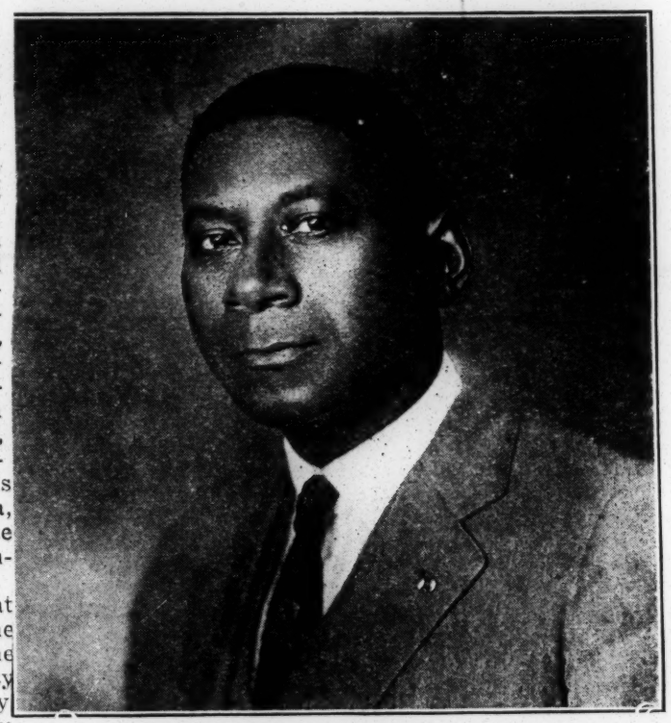
In 1896 two members of our race, by the names of Webb and Haskell, were appointed to serve in what was then known as call service. After serving for a period of two years in this branch, their efficient and excellent work soon gained them the promotion to regular fireman in 1898. G. W. Bright was also appointed fireman at this time, after serving a short period in the call service. And likewise, W. W. Glenn (now captain of detectives at the Newton Street Station), W. Alexander Johnson and Elgain were the next named in order to serve. And others were added at different intervals.

In 1903 H. A. Brown became a member of the company, and through valiant and efficient service, earned his commission as lieutenant. After him in order came, W. E. Hall, 1909, and E. W. Walker, 1910, who earned the commission of captain respectively. In 1912, J. F. Wilson, and in 1913, L. E. Washington joined the company. Lieut. R. H. Kyle, who is largely responsible for this data, joined the company in 1914. These men passed the civil service examination with creditable averages.

This company was stationed at First and Loma Drive. Due to the excellent service rendered to the community by these men, the city was forced to enlarge the company thereby giving more employment to Negro men as firemen, and more equipment to the fire company. And on the 21st day of May, 1924, this company was moved to its present quarters, 14th and Central avenue which is in the district thickly populated by our group. And today this station is one of the largest colored fire station's in the United States. Having a force of 32 men, with two captains and two lieutenants. Working a two platoon system consisting of 15 men each. Taylor and Washington appointed engineers in 1923 entered the service in 1917.

Personal

W. L. Stevens bears the distinction of being the first Negro police detective to retire from active service after twenty-one years of activity. He was retired by the Los Angeles police department on August Fourth. Upon his retirement a delegation of the officers, headed by Capt. C. A. Hodson of the Newton Street division, presented him with a diamond studded badge as a token of the esteem in which his brother officers held him. Detective Lieutenant Stevens leaves a record of brilliant and plucky work behind him.



W. L. STEVENS

Race Detective Captain Heads Entire Division

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., AUG. 26.—(Pacific Coast News Bureau)—Cap't. W. W. Glenn, the only colored captain of detectives west of Chicago, has been placed in charge of the entire Newton division to succeed Ass't. Capt. E. K. Cato (white) who was assigned to the Wiltshire district.

Policemen and Firemen-1926

Kentucky.

Louisville Wants Cops

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Declaring that crime is rampant in the colored section and that it can best be quelled by the use of colored uniformed policemen, the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Public Safety were petitioned this week to place colored men on the force.

Afro-American
10-2-26
Baltimore, Md.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926 Illinois.

WHY SUPPORT A JIM CROW FIRE DEPARTMENT?

There is a movement on foot to increase the pay of Chicago firemen. It is a reasonable move and were conditions in this city different we would throw our whole support to helping these brave men get what they deserve in the way of remuneration for their labors. But, as conditions are now, we are against any sort of increase for firemen. We oppose, and urge those in the city council, whose interests are with ours, not only to vote against it, but to use their influence to move others against it.

The Chicago fire department is one of our few tax-maintained Jim Crow institutions. In spite of the fact that all citizens of Chicago pay taxes to maintain all departments of its government, we have failed in all our efforts to break down this rule of segregation in the fire fighting forces. Our sole representation in this field is the dilapidated station on Taylor St. Civil service rules are ignored altogether in making appointments to this department.

Operating along with the fire department is the police department. Both firemen and policemen are about on the same plane as city employees; what affects one usually affects the other. And yet the police know no Jim Crowism—at least none that can be openly detected. Throughout the city our police and white police operate side by side in an effort to wipe out crime. This fact could serve as an example to the authorities in the fire department that it can be done.

We have asked the city to remedy this disgrace in the fire department. The city does not seem inclined to consider our request. Then that leaves but one step—retaliation with the ballot. We will not continue to pay taxes for a Jim Crow institution in this city. If the firemen are anxious for an increase let them inaugurate a fight against segregation within their ranks. Let them take steps to abolish that "all-colored Taylor St. station," and let them urge that these firemen be scattered throughout the stations in the city. And let them finally demand that all segregation and discrimination in the civil service be removed in order that any person who is physically and mentally capable of being a fireman need not be appointed and assigned according to his color.

These are our terms, and we will accept no compromise!

OFFICERS DENY CHIEF'S SQUAD

Following closely in the wake of a news story published in this paper last week to the effect that Southside patrolmen were dissatisfied with the meagre promotions given them for meritorious duty in the service, came further word that there was no bonafide squad of colored officers operating out of Chief of Police Collins' office. Speaking to a Bee reporter, one of the officers mentioned in last week's story, said, "Most of what your paper published last week was only too true, but don't be fooled, you were in error when you stated that Lt. Middleton was in charge of a squad of men out of Chief Collins' office."

"The real facts in the case are these: Lt. Middleton did have a squad of men working under him, and supposedly out of the Chief's office. I will admit that. But the car that Middleton and his men rode around in was subscribed for out of the pockets of philanthropic citizens who felt pride in seeing Negro officers standing on a par with their white fellow-officers."

"So fine an appearance did the men make, and so meritorious was their work, that for some reason, as yet unexplained, the squad was virtually broken up by orders compelling the men to work in pairs and not as a group as is done in white squads. The Lieutenant's position was only recognized to the extent that he had a group of men report to him at the close of the day.

DAILY NEWS AND EVENING AMERICAN WIN CHICAGO DEFENDER STARS

Below are reprinted stories from three daily newspapers of Chicago dealing with the same subject. In two of them, the Chicago Tribune and the Herald and Examiner, the editors and reporters evidently thought that the mention of the race to which the individuals in the story belonged was essential to relating the incident. The Daily News thought otherwise. Hence, we have a news story in the last named paper telling facts without mentioning the racial aspect of the characters. To the News, the story was of importance and not the race. All mentioned—all concerned—are Americans. And for this unbiased attitude the News is awarded The Chicago Defender star for this week. The only paper which has long abolished the use of "Negro," "Colored," etc., in connection with its news stories is the Evening American which also won the Defender star. And this paper has been repaid for its indiscriminating policy by confidence and esteem of at least 5 per cent of Chicago's population. To the papers that called attention to the policeman's race in this case, we suggest that they carry out this policy to the most minute details in future stories by referring to all policemen by their racial stocks, such as "Irish," "Polish," "German" and others.

[Herald and Examiner]

PAL ESCAPES BULLETS FIRED FROM AMBUSH

Policeman Cassell Whitley, a Negro, on guard behind a partition at the rear of an A. & P. tea store at 4108 S. State St., early today killed one Negro bandit and routed another by shooting through a peep hole from which he witnessed an attempt to hold up John McKeon, 25 years old, 5142 Union Ave., the manager.

The dead bandit, who was shot through the heart, is unidentified. He is tall and light skinned. The bandit who fled was short, dark skinned and stocky.

They were recognized by police of the Wabash Ave. station as the bandits described by victims of at least 100 recent robberies and hold-ups, and known to the police as "long and short."

[Chicago Tribune]

POLICEMAN, LYING IN WAIT, KILLS ROBBER IN STORE

Joseph Pryor, 30-year-old Colored robber, was shot and killed yesterday by Policeman Gazell Whitley, Colored, of the Wabash Ave. station when the robber and an unidentified companion were holding up Michael McKeown, clerk in an Atlantaic & Pacific Tea company store at 4108 S. State St.

Whitley had been stationed in the store as a protection against such hold-ups. Pryor was standing in front of McKeown with a leveled revolver when the policeman shot him through the head from a peep hole in a rear partition.

Pryor was identified through finger print records at the bureau of identification. He was arrested for burglary in 1923.

The second robber, who was stationed as a lookout in front of the store, escaped.

[Chicago Daily News]

WINS PRAISE FOR KILLING BANDIT

The killing of a bandit by a policeman stationed in a tea store to guard against robberies was expected to lessen this class of robberies, police officials said today, in commending the policeman, Cazell Whitley of the Wabash Ave. station for his good work.

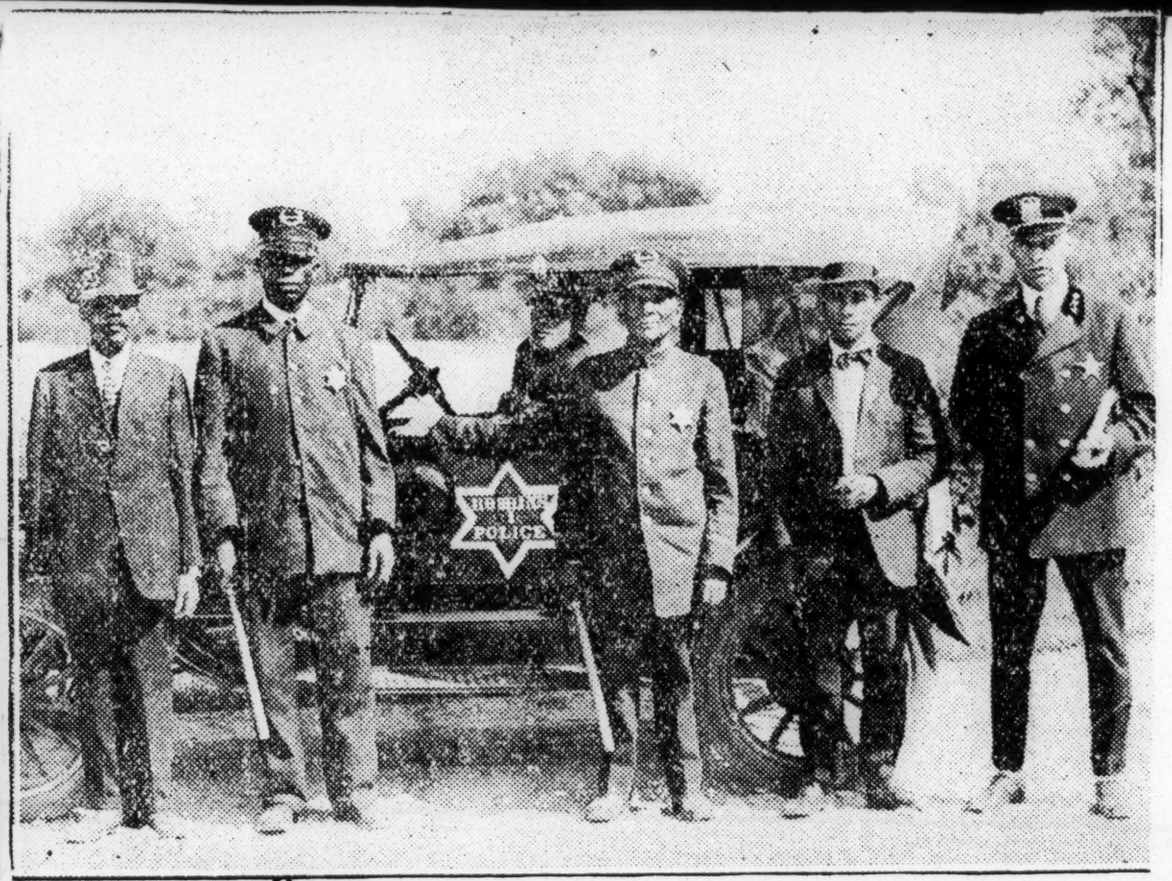
John McKeone, manager of the Atlantic and Pacific store at 4108 S. State St., was ostensibly alone when two young men entered. One of the pair ordered some groceries and, as McKeone turned toward a shelf, whipped out a revolver and ordered him to hold up his hands.

Just then a revolver roared in the rear end of the store. A bullet crashed through the brain of one of the pair, later identified as Joseph Pryor, 30 years old, said by the police to have a crime record. His companion escaped

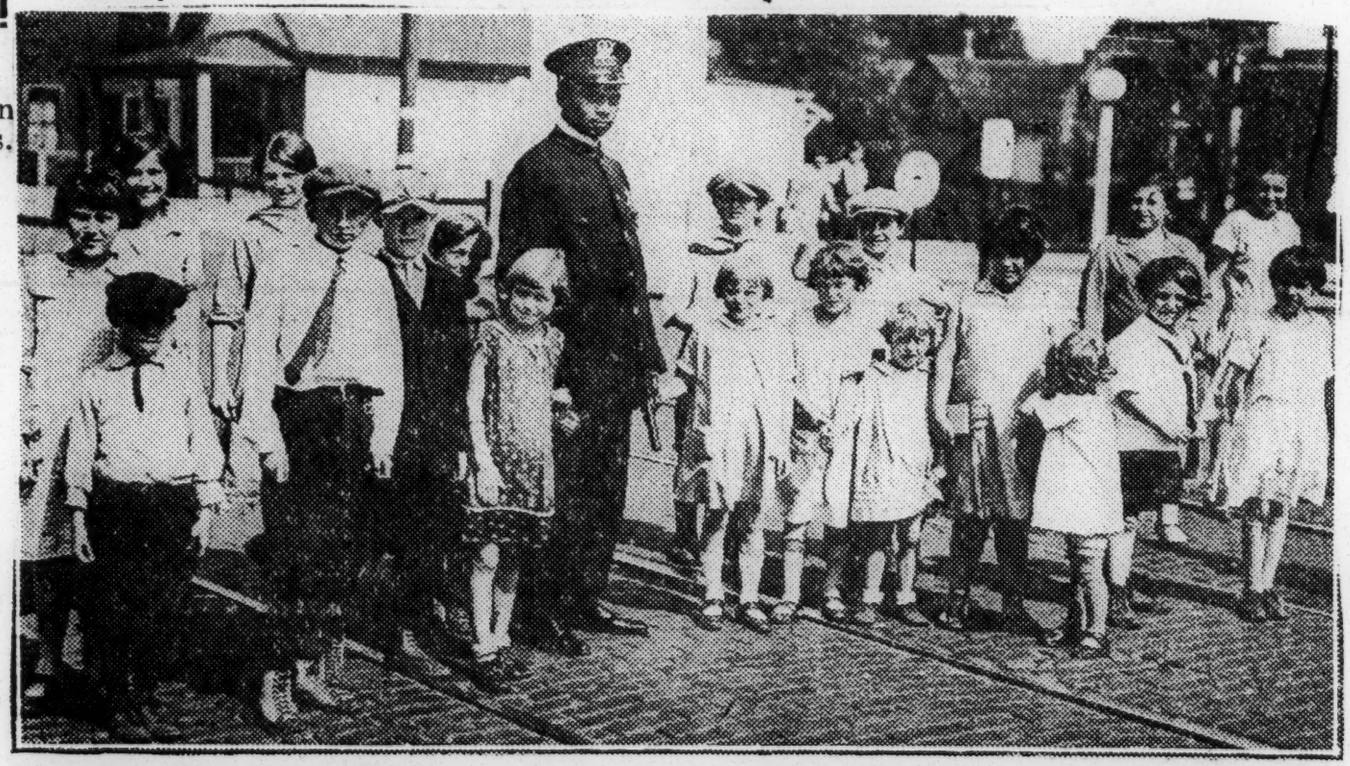
Here's The Big Chief

—Ganaway Photo.

Chief of Police Mazon, Robbins, Ill., has 12 policemen on his force to protect his little city of 3,000 inhabitants.



THE ROBBINS FLIVVER SQUAD. Robbins, Ill., is colored from the mayor on down. Its inhabitants are very proud of its flivver squad shown here. Left to right they are: Harry Bush, William Boone, E. Sebree, Hertel Johnson (seated), Le Roy P. Thomas, Postmaster, James H. Williams, Chief of Police



BY REQUEST. Officer Robelle A. Gamlin directs traffic at 79th street and Ewing avenue. In this section of the city one seldom sees a dark face. Officer Gamlin, however, is the policy request and is the idol of both youngsters and others he guides through the mazes of speeding autos.

Policemen and Firemen—1926 Indiana.

In Secret Service

OLTON OFFUTT

of the U. S. Secret Service of Indiana, is one of the most efficient members of the organization, according to Dr. D. Hastings, president.

Indianapolis May Lose Its Only Policewoman

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 17.—Mrs. Hettie Brewer, the only policewoman in this city, gave her resignation to Chief Johnson last week, after four years of service. She gave as her reason that she had spent enough time away from her family.

A group of citizens have banded themselves together to ask Mrs. Brewer to reconsider and go back on the force. They will meet the chief this week and ask him to write a special letter to have her return.

Mrs. Brewer was for [illegible] years president of the Indiana State Federated Clubs and is a member of more than ten clubs in the city.

Policemen and Firemen—1926

Louisiana.

Former Negro Sheriff In Louisiana Drops Dead

Baton Rouge, La. Mar. 17 (ANP)—Frank DeLaney, aged resident of Port Allen, and once time Sheriff of West Baton Rouge during the reconstruction days, dropped dead in the postoffice while preparing to go on his route as a rural carrier, which position he has filled for the past eight years.

Policemen and Firemen—1926

Maryland

Elevated Men Yield, Boston Gets First Race Conductor

After a bitter fight to become a conductor on the Boston Elevated, extending for two months, George Moore, applicant, has won his fight.

When Moore was first assigned to the Reservoir station all the white conductors there refused to take him out on the cars with the result that inspectors and other officials had to instruct him.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Carmen's Union, who took the matter up with president McMahon, white, of the International Union.

McMahon ruled Moore should not be discriminated against; that he was entitled to join the union which does not draw the color line. Moore is now being instructed by the men at the Reservoir station and it is expected within a few days he will be a full-fledged conductor.

Massachusetts.

Policemen and Firemen – 1926

CAMBRIDGE PATROLMAN

FREDERICK GARDINER GETS POSITION AFTER RE-ELECTION OF MAYOR QUINN BY AID OF COUNCILLOR SHEA—IN DECEMBER LAST, FREDERICK GARDINER WAS MADE A PATROLMAN IN CAMBRIDGE AND IS SERVING REGULAR—HE WAS TOP OF THE ENTRANCE LIST

Mr Gardiner has been a musician and singer, being connected with the late Robert Macphils' Harmony Kings, playing at the leading Hotels and Clubs of Boston. Gardiner, served over-seas with the 546 Eng.

PATROLMAN FRED'K GARDINER

13th Tr. B. N., and was in the drives of St. Mihiel, Meuse and Argonne. He received his honorable discharge.
Mr. Gardiner ahs been a constable for a number of years. H is th son of the late George E. Gardiner of Parker St., aCmbridge. Through the efforts of Ex-Councillor Franklin Wright and especially Councillor-at-large Chas. H. Shea and a great number of friends he was finally appointed under the city administration of Mayor Edward Quinn.

Policemen and Firemen-1926

Minnesota.

ENGINE COMPANY NINE

For a little more than forty years, St. Paul has had a colored fire department. Starting with four men, it rose to its largest size in 1920 with a personnel of fifteen men.

At the present time it has only ten men, and is equipped with some of the finest fire-fighting machinery in the city. All this seems to indicate a progress of which the colored citizens and taxpayers of the city should be proud. As a matter of fact, they are proud—so proud that they have been perfectly willing to let the company go its way with an occasional prideful reference, and no actual interest in the progress of the station. 5-29-26

These colored taxpayers do not know, for instance, that every other company in the city which has as much work as this company is equipped not with ten, but with twelve and fourteen men.

It does not know further that in 1920, when a colored fireman ranked highest in the test for the position of Assistant Chief of Inspection of the Fire Prevention bureau, the position was abolished, apparently so that the man could not be given the trust—and the pay—which the office carried. It does not know further that some time later, when the man in question was fired, the position was re-created and given to a white man.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

Missouri.

A RACE POLICE SERGEANT

With An Enviable Record

Courier,
10-9-26.
Pittsburg,
Ka

For twenty years Ira L. Cooper has been a member of the St. Louis Police Department, successfully tracking down law-breakers.

—Sid Whiting Photo

Sergeant Ira L. Cooper, the only Negro Officer of the rank in St. Louis, and so far as is known, west of the Mississippi river.

ST. LOUIS has a Negro detective sergeant—the only one west of the Mississippi River, so it is said—who in the twenty years he has been in the Police Department has figured in the solution of many crime mysteries.

Sergeant Ira L. Cooper last year collected the largest individual reward ever given to a St. Louis detective — $3,000.

He says the money was "mighty acceptable," probably because it helped him to keep a son in the University of Minnesota and a daughter in an Illinois college. And it is natural that he should want such education for his children, because Cooper is a college man himself and started out in life as an "eye doctor."

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By LOUIS LA COSS
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer
(Published by Special Arrangement with the St. Louis Globe-Democrat)

PERHAPS one of the reasons why Sergeant Ira L. Cooper is a crack detective is because in the days before he became a sleuth he was a practical ophthamologist, or as the lay persons would have it, an "eye doctor." His college course leading to a degree in things optical no doubt taught him how to use his eyes, and now as he glances back over twenty years in the St. Louis Police Department he is willing to admit that his power of keen observation has been a potent factor in establishing his reputation as a good officer and has won for him the distinction of being the only Negro police sergeant in St. Louis or, so far as he is aware, in the entire United States wast of the Mississippi River.

Many St. Louisans know Sergeant Cooper well. He is a respected member of the police force. His print as the officer responsible for the solution of certain baffling crime mysteries. Only last year he received a $3,000 reward for apprehending two Negroes who held up a St. Louis County woman and robbed her of a fortune in jewels. His record in the department is, so to speak, as"clean as a hound's tooth," and among the members of his own race Sergeant Cooper is regarded as an inspiring example of how a Negro may win recognition in a field which few kind ever enter.

Cooper is an interesting study. Missouri born, high school graduate college man, refined in his tastes, imbued with a loyalty to his work that is unsurpassed in the department, modest in the admissions of his accomplishments and almost deferential in manner, he knows the shortcomings of his race, has made them a study and today when there is deviltry abroad and a Negro is suspected of complicity in the law violation, Cooper is called in for assignment as frequently as his crowded calendar will permit. For Cooper is a busy man.

Long before Cooper joined the St. Louis Police Department he had an idea that some day he would be a detective. Perhaps he got the idea while attending college in Chicago, where he was a newspaper reporter on the side. Perhaps the idea grew during those years when he was a States Subtreasury at Eight and Olive streets, where, as he weighed the gold dollars and counted mutilated currency, he pondered how many crimes may have been committed for their possession and guessed at the fun there might be thwarting the plans of those who plotted for ill-gotten gains. And don't think that Ira L. Cooper, Negro messenger boy in the subtreasury, was incapable of pondering thoughts more or less profound. Because Cooper had knowledge of books, was a student and he brought with him to his police work an intelligence that, it must be admitted, was quite superior to that of many of his white brother officers.

Cooper came by his love for study honestly. His grandfather, Daniel Cooper, was born in Africa and was brought to the United States by a missionary and later became a minister of the Gospel. Daniel Cooper had a son. E. J., who received both a high school and college education and migrated to Missouri more than half a century ago, settling in Montgomery County. He was highly regarded in the community, being known as the first Negro College man to reside in the state. He is still alive, although blind, and is a resident of Mexico, Missouri.

Forty-seven years ago Ira L. Cooper was born. His early education was in the schools of Mexico, followed by a two-year academic course at Central Tennessee College at Nashville, topped by a special course at the Northern Illinois College of Ophthamology, Chicago, where he graduated with a degree guaranteeing his expertness in treat- the eyes.

"But I guessed wrong," said Cooper the other day. "I soon discovered that a Negro eye doctor would starve to death—there wasn't enough work to keep him busy, so I looked for something better.

"I was about 20 years old then, I soon landed in St. Louis and was on the lookout for a job. Someone told me they needed a messenger in the subtreasury, so I applied and was accepted. Gen. B. G. Farrar was assistant treasurer in charge of the office."

Cooper relates how, in addition to being a messenger for Farrar, he had other duties, such as weighing gold dollars and preparing mutilated currency for shipment to Washington.

"I guess I've handled many millions of dollars in my time," he said. 'We would have bushels of gold and silver and it was my duty to weigh them. I remember that 18 pounds, 4 ounces of gold were worth $5,000, and 54 pounds, 9 ounces of silver were worth a like amount. Oh, it was a nice job all right.

"Many times we carried as much as $500,000 worth of mutilated currency from the office on the second floor of the Customs Building to the street, where a wagon was waiting to take the shipment to the station. We didn't think of hold-up men in those days and the wagons were never guarded.

"So far as I know there was only one plot to rob the Treasury during the three and one-half years I was in the department. The secret service men got next and there was no robbery."

Cooper was almost 24 years old and Joseph W. Folk was Governor of Missouri when word came to the Negro messenger that his record in the department was such that, if he cared, it might be possible for him to join the St. Louis Police Department as a detective.

"I suppose there are quite a few St. Louisans who remember Frank Scott, a Negro barber in the Security Building, and Charley Dodge, an employe of the old St. Louis Trust Company. Both of them had influential friends in the city and they prevailed on me to apply for a job with Col. A. C. Stewart, president of the Police Board, who was reorganizing the department.

"It seems that Col. Stewart had been having a great deal of trouble with Negro officers and he was anxious to get some new blood, so my application was favorably acted upon and on June 15, 1906, I was appointed a probationary patrolman attached to the Detective Bureau at headquarters. William Desmond was my chief, and, believe me, he was some chief, too."

As has been said, a crude foundation for detective skill had been laid by Cooper while he was a reporter on the Broadax in Chicago and later on the Palladium in St. Louis, and he was not caught unawares when, almost before he was well started in the department, he was called in to help solve the ins and outs of a confidence game that had just about reduced the Negro population of St. Louis to poverty.

This is commonly known as the Joshua C. Watson Salted Gold Mine case and Cooper tells about it thus:

"Watson was a high powered Negro promoter who, before coming to St. Louis, had operated extensively in the East, one of his biggest schemes a colonization project in Africa which, however, failed to materialize because Watson wasn't on the boat when it sailed and was not heard of for some time afterwards.

"But he came to St. Louis with a glowing scheme for quick wealth. He opened elegant offices at 1919 Market street and announced himself as the head of the Wyoming Mining, Refining and Smelting Company, with headquarters in Cheyenne. He hired a Negro ex-preacher named Henderson who laid down some heavy oratory, and between the two they secured many thousands of dollars from investors in this so-called fabulously rich gold mine in the West.

"I thought there was something wrong and so informed the post office inspectors, with the result that they went to Cheyenne and discovered that Watson had a mine all right, but it wasn't filled with gold. It was a 'shot' mine. That is, he had taken a cannon, scattered gold fillings in the wadding and fired it into the hole. All the gold that was in the mine he put there.

"Well, Watson got away and has never been apprehended. Henderson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months in the city jail."

But Cooper really won his spurs when he solved the Charles P. Senter burglary case after numerous other detectives had fallen down on the assignment. That was his first year in the department.

Senter at that time resided at No. 1 Beverly place. One night he reported that his house had been robbed of considerable jewels, cash and wearing apparel. The place of entry of the burglars was evident. The glass in a French door had been removed, carefully placed against the outside wall and through it the burglars merely had to thrust a hand and unlock the door.

"When I was assigned to the case I made a thorough inspection of the premises and when I came to the French door I made an important discovery," explained Cooper. "I noticed that the door swung in, and, what was more important, that the putty which had been removed had fallen on the inside of the house and not outside, such as would have happened had the burglars worked from the outside. The only logical concusion was that it was an 'inside' job.

"Throughout my examination I was accompanied by Senter's Negro butler, who was extremely gracious and almost effusively willing to give me every aid possible. I immediately suspected him. But I allowed him to take me all through the house, and then after an hour or so said I was ready to make a report.

"'Well, who did the job?' the butler asked me.

"'You did and you're under arrest,' I replied.

"He fought a bit, but agreed to go to the station—and I had a confession from him within the hour. We recovered five diamonds and several other pieces of jewelry. Two of Senter's suits of clothes which had been stolen had been burned by the butler, who, incidentally, served three years in the State Penitentiary for the job."

Then there was the Mercantile Trust Company case. To solve it Cooper traveled in various parts of the United States from April to October in 1924—but he landed his men, and incidentally one woman.

For months the bank lost money checks were cashed, only to be discovered later as forgeries. A check-up of employes failed to reveal a clew until Cooper was called in. He immediately suspected a most trusted Negro employe. He laid a trap for him and caught him.

Cooper's solution of the robbery of Mrs. W. Arthur Stickney, St. Louis County society woman, is so recent that the details will probably be remembered by all. She was held up by two Negroes and relieved of a fortune in jewels. Cooper got the men, saw them convicted— and collected $3,000 as the reward offered by Stickney and members of the St. Louis Country Club.

"That was the biggest reward ever paid a member of the St. Louis Detective Bureau," he said with a show of justifiable pride. "And I'll tell you it was mighty acceptable. Yes, sir, mighty acceptable."

Perhaps the reason it was "mighty acceptable" is that Cooper now is sending his son and his daughter through college. His boy is a junior at the University of Minnesota, where he is studying pharmaceutical chemistry and his daughter is attending Illinois Weslyan College, Bloomington, the only Negro girl in the school.

Don't get the impression that Cooper boasts of the really meritorious record he has made as a detective. He is modest almost to the point of reticence, but he looks upon his work as highly important.

"I think I know my people," he said. "I have never had any trouble making arrests and I do not subscribe to the idea that a Negro resents being taken into custody by a Negro officer. I think the reverse is true. And I never rush
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and a Negro is suspect-
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assuming gentleman and an efficient officer. Many St. Louisans
freedom and they get not of his race have had reason to
the law. It is al- trust him. His twenty-years in the
educated Negro who department constitute a notable con-
st to crime here." tribution in loyalty and honesty.
Police Department Sergeant Cooper has many friends. They respect him as an un-
"A Negro fugitive always jumps have mighty little trouble with ways the un-educated Negro who contributes most to
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PERHAPS one of the reasons why Sergeant Ira L. Cooper is a crack detective is because in the days before he became a sleuth he was a practical ophthamologist, or as the lay persons would have it, an "eye doctor." His college course leading to a degree in things optical no doubt taught him how to use his eyes, and now as he glances back over twenty years in the St. Louis Police Department he is willing to admit that his power of keen observation has been a potent factor in establishing his reputation as a good officer and has won for him the distinction of being the only Negro police sergeant in St. Louis or, so far as he is aware, in the entire United States wast of the Mississippi River.

Many St. Louisans know Sergeant Cooper well. He is a respected member of the police force. His print as the officer responsible for the solution of certain baffling crime mysteries. Only last year he received a $3,000 reward for apprehending two Negroes who held up a St. Louis County woman and robbed her of a fortune in jewels. His record in the department is, so to speak, as"clean as a hound's tooth," and among the members of his own race Sergeant Cooper is regarded as an inspiring example of how a Negro may win recognition in a field which few kind ever enter.

Cooper is an interesting study. Missouri born, high school graduate college man, refined in his tastes, imbued with a loyalty to his work that is unsurpassed in the department, modest in the admissions of his accomplishments and almost deferential in manner, he knows the shortcomings of his race, has made them a study and today when there is deviltry abroad and a Negro is suspected of complicity in the law violation, Cooper is called in for assignment as frequently as his crowded calendar will permit. For Cooper is a busy man.

Long before Cooper joined the St. Louis Police Department he had an idea that some day he would be a detective. Perhaps he got the idea while attending college in Chicago, where he was a newspaper reporter on the side. Perhaps the idea grew during those years when he was a States Subtreasury at Eight and Olive streets, where, as he weighed the gold dollars and counted mutilated currency, he pondered how many crimes may have been committed for their possession and guessed at the fun there might be in thwarting the plans of those who plotted for ill-gotten gains.

"I don't think that Ira L. Cooper, Negro messenger boy in the subtreasury, was incapable of pondering thoughts more or less profound. Because Cooper had knowledge of books, was a student and he brought with him to his police work an intelligence that, it must be admitted, was quite superior to that of many of his white brother officers.

Cooper came by his love for study honestly. His grandfather, Daniel Cooper, was born in Africa and was brought to the United States by a missionary and later became a minister of the Gospel. Daniel Cooper had a son. E. J., who received both a high school and college education and migrated to Missouri more than half a century ago, settling in Montgomery County. He was highly regarded in the community, being known as the first Negro College man to reside in the state. He is still alive, although blind, and is a resident of Mexico, Missouri.

Forty-seven years ago Ira L. Cooper was born. His early education was in the schools of Mexico, followed by a two-year academic course at Central Tennessee College at Nashville, topped by a special course at the Northern Illinois College of Ophthamology, Chicago, where he graduated with a degree guaranteeing his expertness in treating the eyes.

"But I guessed wrong," said Cooper the other day. "I soon discovered that a Negro eye doctor would starve to death—there wasn't enough work to keep him busy, so I looked for something better.

"I was about 20 years old then, I soon landed in St. Louis and was on the lookout for a job. Someone told me they needed a messenger in the subtreasury, so I applied and it was accepted. Gen. B. G. Farrar was assistant treasurer in charge of the office."

Cooper relates how, in addition to being a messenger for Farrar, he had other duties, such as weighing gold dollars and preparing mutilated currency for shipment to Washington.

"I guess I've handled many millions of dollars in my time," he said. 'We would have bushels of gold and silver and it was my duty to weigh them. I remember that 18 pounds, 4 ounces of gold were worth $5,000, and 54 pounds, 9 ounces of silver were worth a like amount. Oh, it was a nice job all right.

"Many times we carried as much as $500,000 worth of mutilated currency from the office on the second floor of the Customs Building to the street, where a wagon was waiting to take the shipment to the station. We didn't think of hold-up men in those days and the wagons were never guarded.

"So far as I know there was only one plot to rob the Treasury during the three and one-half years I was in the department. The secret service men got next and there was no robbery."

Cooper was almost 24 years old and Joseph W. Folk was Governor of Missouri when word came to the Negro messenger that his record in the department was such that, if he cared, it might be possible for him to join the St. Louis Police Department as a detective.

"I suppose there are quite a few St. Louisans who remember Frank Scott, a Negro barber in the Security Building, and Charley Dodge, an employe of the old St. Louis Trust Company. Both of them had influential friends in the city and they prevailed on me to apply for a job with Col. A. C. Stewart, president of the Police Board, who was reorganizing the department.

"It seems that Col. Stewart had been having a great deal of trouble with Negro officers and he was anxious to get some new blood, so my application was favorably acted upon and on June 15, 1906, I was appointed a probationary patrolman attached to the Detective Bureau at headquarters. William Desmond was my chief, and, believe me, he was some chief, too."

As has been said, a crude foundation for detective skill had been laid while he was a reporter on the Broadax in Chicago and later on the Palladium in St. Louis, and he was not caught unawares when almost before he was well started in the department, he was called in to help solve the ins and outs of a confidence game that had just about reduced the Negro population of St. Louis to poverty.

This is commonly known as the Joshua C. Watson Salted Gold Mine case and Cooper tells about it thus:

"Watson was a high powered Negro promoter who, before coming to St. Louis, had operated extensively in the East, one of his biggest schemes a colonization project in Africa which, however, failed to materialize because Watson wasn't on the boat when it sailed and was not heard of for some time afterwards.

"But he came to St. Louis with a glowing scheme for quick wealth. He opened elegant offices at 1919 Market street and announced himself as the head of the Wyoming Mining, Refining and Smelting Company, with headquarters in Cheyenne. He hired a Negro ex-preacher named Henderson who laid down some heavy oratory, and between the two they secured many thousands of dollars from investors in this so-called fabulously rich gold mine in the West.

"I thought there was something wrong and so informed the post office inspectors, with the result that they went to Cheyenne and discovered that Watson had a mine all right, but it wasn't filled with gold. It was a 'shot' mine. That is, he had taken a cannon, scattered gold fillings in the wadding and fired it into the hole. All the gold that was in the mine he put there.

"Well, Watson got away and has never been apprehended. Henderson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months in the city jail."

But Cooper really won his spurs when he solved the Charles P. Senter burglary case after numerous other detectives had fallen down on the assignment. That was his first year in the department.

Senter at that time resided at No. 1 Beverly place. One night he reported that his house had been robbed of considerable jewels, cash and wearing apparel. The place of entry of the burglars was evident. The glass in a French door had been removed, carefully placed against the outside wall and through it the burglars merely had to thrust a hand and unlock the door.

"When I was assigned to the case I made a thorough inspection of the premises and when I came to the French door I made an important discovery," explained Cooper. "I noticed that the door swung in, and, what was more important, that the putty which had been removed had fallen on the inside of the house and not outside, such as would have happened had the burglars worked on the outside. The only logical conclusion was that it was an 'inside' job.

"Throughout my examination I was accompanied by Senter's Negro butler, who was extremely gracious and almost effusively willing to give me every aid possible. I immediately suspected him. But I allowed him to take me all through the house, and then after an hour or so said I was ready to make a report.

"'Well, who did the job?' the butler asked me.

"'You did and you're under arrest,' I replied.

"He fought a bit, but agreed to go to the station—and I had a confession from him within the hour. We recovered five diamonds and several other pieces of jewelry. Two of Senter's suits of clothes which had been stolen had been burned by the butler, who, incidentally, served three years in the State Penitentiary for the job."

Then there was the Mercantile Trust Company case. To solve it Cooper traveled in various parts of the United States from April to October in 1924—but he landed his men, and incidentally one woman.

For months the bank lost money checks were cashed, only to be discovered later as forgeries. A checkup of employes failed to reveal a clew until Cooper was called in. He immediately suspected a most trusted Negro employe. He laid a trap for him and caught him.

Cooper's solution of the robbery of Mrs. W. Arthur Stickney, St. Louis County society woman, is so recent that the details will probably be remembered by all. She was held up by two Negroes and relieved of a fortune in jewels. Cooper got the men, saw them convicted—and collected $3,000 as the reward offered by Stickney and members of the St. Louis Country Club.

"That was the biggest reward ever paid a member of the St. Louis Detective Bureau," he said with a show of justifiable pride. "And I'll tell you it was mighty acceptable. Yes, sir, mighty acceptable."

Perhaps the reason it was "mighty acceptable" is that Cooper now is sending his son and his daughter through college. His boy is a junior at the University of Minnesota, where he is studying pharmaceutical chemistry and his daughter is attending Illinois Weslyan College, Bloomington, the only Negro girl in the school.

Don't get the impression that Cooper boasts of the really meritorious record he has made as a detective. He is modest almost to the point of reticence, but he looks upon his work as highly important.

"I think I know my people," he said. "I have never had any trouble making arrests and I do not subscribe to the idea that a Negro resents being taken into custody by a Negro officer. I think the reverse is true. And I never 'rush' my work.

"My experience has been that in instance, a crime has been skipped and a Negro is suspected in touch with his friends or relatives, and then I nab him. Then I and the man has ways the case. I make a very mighty little trouble with investigation at first, have nose of assuring

"A Negro fugitive always jumps himself that the man has round for about three months. He generally does. town to town—but eventually he either comes back or he gets

Policemen and Firemen — 1926

Missouri.

POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NEGRO NEIGHBORHOODS

A short time ago, we called the attention of our readers to the fact that the present Police Board has refused to put any more Negroes on the force, giving first one excuse and then another as its reason. Since that time much speculation has been indulged in by the public, as to the real cause of the general attitude of the Board toward the colored people of the city. Many reasons have been advanced; chief among them being the idea that the Board is being influenced largely by its subordinates. The fairness of former chiefs, O'Brien and Hoagland toward the colored people is cited as compared with the present chiefs. Just how far race prejudice from the inside has "influenced" the Board in its attitude toward the colored people of the city is, of course, speculative; but it's a cinch that something is playing a strong hand against us with the present Police Board.

St. Louis Argus 3-19-26 St. Louis, Mo.

In support of the argument in favor of more Negro Policemen, attention is called to an unusually large number of gambling houses and dives in the Negro neighborhoods; especially on Market street, where operations are growing bolder each day. The white police who walk these beats seem to be "blind" to what is going on or, either don't care. If Negro officers were on these beats and enough of them, there is not the slightest doubt that this condition would be changed, thereby lessening crime of all sorts in the city.

We wonder does the Hon. Police Board know of these conditions. They are, for the most part wide open. In one block there are six alleged gambling places or dives.

We wonder why Negro officers can't be put in these neighborhoods? It is quite noticeable that since the present Police Board has had charge of things, we rarely see a Negro uniform man on Market, Lawton and Pine. We are informed that they are consigned to railroad yard districts where they will hardly be seen by those who use the main thoroughfares.

We hold that to refuse the Negro the right to take the examination that they too may qualify to become officers, is an arbitrary denial to them of their constitutional guarantees, and the Police Board is the guilty party.

Two More Negro Deputies

Sheriff Schuler has recently appointed two more Negro deputies in his office. They are J. P. Anderson, 3232 Lawton Blvd., and Harry Carter 1516 Chestnut St.

Chronicle 2-6-26

Mr. Schuler now has six Negro deputies in his office. This is the largest number of colored men employed in that office at one time.

ST. LOUIS GETS NEW NEGRO FIRE COMPANY

St. Louis, Mo.—A new Negro fire company has been appointed by Director of Public Safety Mr. Brod, and is expected to assume active duty Friday or Saturday of this week.

Tocsin 7-24-26 St. Paul, Minn.

The eight new men will be located at Jefferson avenue and Walnut street, and will be the regular relief for the men already there.

NO NEGROES ARE APPOINTED ON POLICE FORCE

Governor Baker Appealed To. Attorney John A. Davis Tells Chief Executive Of Growing Unrest Among Colored People.

"Unfair" Attitude Of The Present Police Board Is Cause Of Complaint, And Governor Says No Strings Are Tied To Them.

Because of the growing feeling among the colored people of St. Louis, that the present Board of Police Commissioners are hostile or unfair to them, Attorney John A. Davis, elect member of the Missouri legislature, has written Governor Baker a letter expressing the feelings of the members of his race on this matter.

Chicago Defender 3-20-26

In reply, the Governor said it was his desire that the Board do justice to all, but they were appointed with no strings tied to them.

St. Louis Argus

Mr. Davis' Letter

"November 24, 1926.

"Hon. Sam A. Baker,
Governor of Missouri,
Jefferson City, Missouri,
My dear Governor:

"The Negroes of the City of St. Louis are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the non-appointment of Negro men to serve on the Police Force of the City by the Board of Police Commissioners.

"This dissatisfaction was expressed in the recent November election when Negroes voted the Democratic ticket in larger numbers than ever before in the history of the City of St. Louis. Among the many arguments that were advanced to persuade Negroes to vote the Democratic ticket was that in all large cities where Democrats control, notably New York and Chicago, Negroes are appointed to serve on the Police force without let or hindrance. This same condition is promised if Negroes will support the Democratic ticket in St. Louis. If the impression gains further headway that the St. Louis Police Board, which is under your control, is discriminating against Negroes because of their color, with the tacit consent of the Governor, it will mean a considerable loss of Republican votes in the next election.

"Missouri is classified as a doubtful State. If the sixty-five thousand (65,000) Negro voters of St. Louis should ever vote the Democratic ticket Republican control of the state would be lost.

"Aside from the political reasons involved, I believe that it is the purpose of your administration to treat all races fairly and impartially. The Negroes of St. Louis believe, and their belief is growing stronger, that they are not being treated fairly and impartially by the St. Louis Police Board. The official organ of the Board carries a weekly appeal for men - yet a Negro man is denied an application when he asks for one, or if he gets an application in it is pigeon-holed when filed. During the tenure of office of the present Board not one Negro has been added to the force. In fact, the Negro personnel of the force has been reduced one-fourth. The situation is alarming and I believe that it should be given some attention.

"May we look for early and favorable action?

Yours very truly,
JOHN A. DAVIS,
"State Representative-Elect Third District."

The Governor's Letter

November 26, 1926.

"Hon. John A. Davis,
Peoples Finance Bldg.,
St. Louis, Missouri.
Dear Mr. Davis:

"Your letter of November 24th received and same will be referred to the Police Commissioners.

"I am inclined to believe that the Board desires to do justice to all, or at least, it is my desire that they do justice to all applications for positions, but I have felt that the Boards, of course, would be greatly hampered if I told them what to do and what not to do. They were appointed and with no strings tied to them, feeling that they were just men and would act accordingly, and I believe they will do what they think to be right. I am sure they have no particular prejudice against the colored race.

Very truly yours,
SAM A. BAKER

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

New Jersey.

Atlantic City Gets Two Fire Companies Started

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 24.—The appointment of Russell Allen and Theodore Gandy as acting captains of the newly organized truck company No. 6 of the local fire department marked the completion of the only two fire companies made up of our group exclusively from captains on down in any fire department in this country. Engine company No. 9 was organized in November, 1920, with 14 men. Wm. Tunnell and Dan Preston, acting captains, were since made regular captains. Both companies are housed at the fire station at Indiana and Grand Aves.

Commissioner Wm. S. Cuthbert, director of public safety, organized the two companies after 14 years of promises by his predecessors.

The four captains receive $2,600 per year. The other members, starting at $1,500, receive increases of $200 per year until they reach the maximum of $2,100. All receive a $50 allowance for uniforms each year and in sickness receive full pay. In case of disability or the age limit they receive half pay, this going to widows in case of death. Each is allowed 21 days' vacation a year.

Policemen and Firemen—1926

New Jersey.

Policeman Jefferson Weds Baltimore Girl

ATLANTIC CITY N J PRESS
JULY 8, 1926

Marriage Takes Place Informally at Asbury ChurchParsonage—Garden Party and Bazaar by Pleasantville Club Being Held

NORTHSIDE BUREAU
1711 Arctic Avenue
Marine 5064

It has just been made public that Harry Jefferson, socially and fraternally a prominent member of Northside social circles, was quietly married to Miss Hilda Tucker, of Baltimore, Md., the ceremony taking place at the parsonage of the Asbury Methodist church, 1718 Arctic av. on Wednesday morning and being performed by the Rev. Adam L. Martin.

The bride was becomingly gowned in grey georgette. She also is prominent in social and church circles in her native city. Since coming to Atlantic City she has been active in the Asbury Methodist church, being a member of several of the church auxiliaries.

Mr. Jefferson is widely known and is the only colored member of the motorcycle police squadron of the city. For several years he was connected with the traffic force of the local department and was stationed at Virginia and Pacific avs., where traffic is heavy at all time. While on duty there he made many friends and was considered one of the most efficient and popular officers directing traffic on Pacific avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson will make their home at 1809 Arctic av.

28 Race Firemen In Atlantic City Draw $53,600 Yearly

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 28.—The twenty-eight members of the local fire department, comprising engine company No. 9 and truck company No. 6, are now receiving a total of $53,600 per year. They complete the only two companies of our group from captains on down in any fire department in this country.

The organizing of these companies came about only through the determination of Wm. S. Cuthbert, director of Public Safety, head of the local fire department, to see the political pledges of his party fulfilled, this after promises of 14 years had been dodged by each administration. Despite all political pressure brought to bear he had, six months after elected in May, 1920, organized engine company No. 9, and appointed Dan Preston and Wm. Tunnell acting captains, since promoted to regular grade captains. This was November 1, 1920.

In June of this year he organized truck company No. 6, appointed Rossell Allen and Theodore Gandy, acting captains, and the station housing the two companies doesn't hold a white face. The captains receive $2,600 per year with privates starting at $1,500, increasing each year $200 until the maximum of $2,100 is reached. They receive a fund of $50 per year for uniforms, receive full pay while sick and if disabled or aged, receive pension of half pay. This pension goes to widows in case of death. Twenty-one days vacation is allowed each year.

Commissioner disclaims all credit for these splendid appointments, stating he thought it time some real appointments were handed our group. Yet while at the head of the police department our greatest gains were made on the police force, appointing a police sergeant and five police women. Colored life guards and beach censors were also appointed by the commissioner.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

New York

Patrolman Robinson Awarded Medal For Distinguished Service

Among the awards for distinguished service made by Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright on Saturday, December 26, at the 7th Regiment Armory, was a medal to Patrolman William [illegible] the 10th Precinct [illegible] Distinguished First Aid Service," by the Society for Instruction In First Aid Service to the Injured.

New York Page

1-9-26

New York, N.Y.

On December 21, 1924, Patrolman Robinson was a passenger on the Interborough subway, when the motorman of the train sustained a burst blood vessel and was in imminent danger of bleeding to death. Patrolman Robinson quickly [illegible] the situation, and [illegible] leather thong attached to his pocket lolly, formed a tourniquet which stanched the flow of blood and saved the man's life.

Commissioner Enright, in making the award, expressed great personal pleasure at the opportunity to commend Patrolman Robinson.

N. Y. C. EVENING WORLD
MAY 21, 1926

4 COPS PASSED UP BY ENRIGHT ARE GIVEN PROMOTION

One, a Negro, First Colored Sergeant in State—3 Others Boosted

Police Commissioner McLaughlin announced to-day the promotion of four patrolmen who had been passed over by Commissioner Enright during the Hylan regime and of three others to the rank of Sergeants, among them a Negro policeman, who now is the first Negro Police Sergeant in New York State.

Thomas J. Smith, Albert Hazlitt, Samuel J. Battle and George O. Burpeau were the four who topped the civil service list but were passed over by Enright, while Frank J. Szuminsky, William F. Quinn and Michael Connelly were the three other patrolmen promoted. The Commissioner's action cleans up the list of those who were in line for promotion under the last Administration but were passed over.

All seven were called into Commissioner McLaughlin's office this morning to receive his congratulations.

"You owe your promotion to nobody," said the Commissioner. "But you do owe unfaltering allegiance to the city. Go out and do your duty and see that those under you always act as men."

Battle, who becomes the first Negro Police Sergeant, was appointed to the force June 28, 1911, and was the first Negro policeman in New York City. He was attached to the West 68th Street Station and at once became a popular member of the force. Three times he was recommended for official commendation, but Enright failed to act on these recommendations. Battle has the reputation of being a man of superior intelligence. He was assigned to duty in the Detective Bureau.

William P. Boyden, attached to the 135th Street Station, was the first Negro first grade detective in New York City. The late Wasley Redding was the first Negro detective regularly assigned to the Detective Bureau. Another Negro policeman, Patrolman Robert Holmes, was shot and killed by a burglar in August, 1915, and his name is included in the honor roll at Police Headquarters.

N Y C WORLD
MAY 22, 1926

FIRST NEGRO NAMED AS POLICE SERGEANT

McLaughlin Promotes Samuel J. Battle, Long Eligible, but Passed Over by Enright

For the first time in the history of the New York Police Department a Negro was promoted yesterday to Sergeant. At various times several have been made temporary Detective Sergeants, but when Commissioner McLaughlin elevated Samuel J. Battle he set a precedent.

Other newly appointed Sergeants are Thomas J. Smith, Albert E. Hazlitt, George O. Burpeau, Frank J. Szuminsky, William F. Quinn and Michael Connelly. Four of them, Smith, Hazlitt, Burpeau and Battle, were passed over three times by Commissioner Enright, although they headed the Sergeant's eligibility list. Yesterday they were told their records caused their promotion and they were wanted to continue in their loyalty to the department and the city.

Battle is a giant in stature and has been commended several times for quick wit and energy. Appointed in 1911, he was the first Negro patrolman on the police force.

Since that time others have entered the department. William Boyden, promoted by Enright to first grade detective, is still holding that position at West 135th Street Station. The late Lesley Redding was the first Negro to be made a detective and the name of Robert Holmes, shot to death while making an arrest in 1916, appears on the bronze honor roll in Headquarters.

NEW YORK CITY TIMES
MAY 22, 1926

FIRST NEGRO ASSIGNED TO BE POLICE SERGEANT

McLaughlin Promotes Patrolman Battle, on Force 15 Years, as Detective in Harlem.

Patrolman Samuel J. Battle of the Canarsie Station, the first negro to be appointed to the force since the consolidation of the greater city, was promoted to the rank of sergeant yesterday by Police Commissioner McLaughlin. It was the first time in the history of the police force that a negro had been raised above the rank of patrolman. Battle also was assigned to detective duty in the West 135th Street Station, which is the centre of Harlem's negro colony.

He was one of seven patrolmen raised to sergeant by the Commissioner yesterday. Three of the new sergeants, Thomas J. Smith, Albert Hozlitt and George Buropeau, with Battle, had been denied promotion by former Commissioner Enright when he reached their names on the eligible list. The other new sergeants were Frank J. Szunisky, William F. Quinn and Michael Connelly.

The Commissioner said that Sergeant Battle was one of the brightest men on the force.

Battle became a policeman fifteen years ago. His uncle was a policeman in Brooklyn before consolidation. He is huge in size. He had been assigned to plainclothes duty in the Harlem precinct of which he now becomes a detective when Mr. Enright transferred him to patrol duty in Canarsie two years ago.

Battle lives with his wife and four children in an apartment house at 255 West 135th Street. His eldest son is a student at Morgan College, in Baltimore.

NEW YORK CITY POST
MAY 21, 1926

NEGRO MADE POLICE SERGEANT

Promotion Is First of Kind in History of New York Department

For the first time in the history of the New York Police Department a negro has been raised to the rank of sergeant. Commissioner McLaughlin made the announcement today when he said Samuel J. Battle, nergo patrolman attached to the Canarsie station, was among the seven policemen he had selected for promotion to sergeants.

All seven, although eligible for promotion, were passed over by former Commissioner Enright. Those beside Battle who will be sergeants are George Burteau, Frank Sciminsky, William S. Quinn, Michael Connelly, Thomas J. Smith and Albert Hazlet.

BROOKLYN N. Y. EAGLE
MAY 21, 1926

First Negro Sergeant Named by McLaughlin

For the first time in the history of the New York Police Department a negro was promoted today to the rank of sergeant. At various times several have been made temporary detective sergeants, but when Commissioner George V. McLaughlin elevated Samuel J. Battle to the rank of sergeant, among other promotions, he set a precedent.

NEW YORK CITY AMERICAN
MAY 22, 1926

Negro Becomes Police Sergeant, New York's First

SAMUEL J. BATTLE, a negro, was promoted yesterday to the rank of sergeant by Police Commissioner McLaughlin. This is the first time in the history of the New York Police Department that a negro has held such a rank.

Battle was appointed June 28, 1911. As a patrolman he was assigned in plain clothes to the negro districts of Harlem. Two years ago he was ordered into uniform and transferred to the Canarsie Station for patrol duty.

After his promotion Commissioner McLaughlin congratulated him and six other men who were also promoted and assured them that their elevation came from no influence, either within or without the department.

NEW YORK CITY HERALD
MAY 22, 1926

McLaughlin Promotes Negro to Sergeant's Rank

Samuel J. Battle First of His Race to Reach That Grade Here

Samuel J. Battle, Negro policeman, whom former Commissioner Enright refused to promote to the rank of sergeant, although his position on the civil service eligibility list entitled him to it, was advanced to that rank by Commissioner McLaughlin yesterday and restored to his former post in the detective division. He is the first Negro to hold a superior rank in the Police Department.

Lieutenant George F. Bishop, who held the designation of acting captain while serving in the Police Telegraph Bureau, was transferred to the detective division. He automatically lost his disignation of acting captain, but the Commissioner explained that Lieutenant Bishop was the type of man he wanted to get in the detective division and it was at the Commissioner's request that Bishop consented to the transfer.

The Commissioner also promoted to sergeancies six other patrolmen whom the former Commissioner had passed over for reasons which he never cared to make public. The Commissioner explained to them yesterday that their promotion at this time was attributable to no influence either within or without the Police Department. They were Patrolmen Thomas J. Smith, Albert Hozlitt, George Buropeau, Frank J. Szunisky, William F. Quinn and Michael Connelly.

Hundreds Congratulate Officer Battle on Promotion to Police Sergeant

Seventy = One = Year = Old Mother First to Send Greetings — On Force Fifteen Years

Congratulations from his seventy-ore-year-old mother on his promotion to Detective Sergeant had more significance for Patrolman Samuel J. Battle this week than the hundreds of messages and letters that have poured into his home at 255 West 138th street.

Working at odd jobs and as red cap in the Grand Central Terminal, Battle studied "How to Become a Policeman" at night.

It may be recalled that during the administration of the late Mayor Gaynor a delegation of citizens met at the City Hall asking for his appointment to the police force after being passed up by the then Commissioner of Police.

Fifteen years ago when Commissioner of Police Rhinelander Waldo appointed 45 new men to the force Battle was included. Up to several years ago the policeman has been attached to stations in Harlem. During a general shake-up all over the city by Commissioner Enright he was transferred to another community.

With his advancement Sergeant Battle has been sent back to the 135th street station. He was born Jan. 16, 1883, at Newbern, N. C.

Police Sergeant Samuel J. Battle

Apparent Racial Prejudice In Police Department Stirs Citizens of Harlem Who Protest Sidetracking of Carter

Efficient Traffic Officer Fails To Get Transfer To More Desirable Post To Which He Is Thought To Be Entitled Through Seniority In His Division

Citizens of Harlem, who keep track of civic conditions, are wrought up and wondering if there is a policy of discrimination based on race or color developing ir the Traffic Division of the Police Department, this curiosity resulting from the apparent sidetracking of a colored traffic officer in the matter of transferring him to a more desirable post than the one he now holds, and to which he seems to be entitled under the rule of seniority and efficiency which is supposed to control in such matters.

The traffic station at 125th street and Lenox avenue, one of the most responsible in the Harlem section, is also one of the most sought for by men in the Traffic Squad because the hours are shorter and because of other favorable conditions. But men stationed on this post usually stay as long as they can, and vacancies seldom occur.

Applied Two Years Ago

It is understood that more than two years ago Traffic Officer Reuben Carter, now stationed at 135th street and Lenox avenue filed application for the 125th street post on the occurring of a vacancy. Recently there was a vacansy and citizens who had approved Carter's application, including the president of the Harlem Board of Trade and Commerce, and other leading business men of the community, looked to see the post given to the colored officer, who has been in the Police Department nearly eight years, and attached to the Traffic squad since March 1921.

But it is noted that Carter is still at 135th street, while the 125th street post has been filled by a young white officer who was not even a member of the Police Department at the time Carter's application was filed, having been appointed to the force just about two years ago. This young officer it is reported, was only attached to the Traffic Squad about six months ago.

Carter Refused To Talk

Just why Carter was ignored The Age has not been able to discover. The colored officer refused to discuss the matter at all, declarig that he could not talk about departmental matters.

It has been reported that Captain Post, commanding Traffic Division B. to which Carter is attached, is in favor of the transfer, which is regarded as a promotion, and made such a recommendation. The assignment is in the hands of Deputy Inscector Arthur J. Dodd an Enright appointee who is in charge of the Traffic Divisions of Manhattan and The Bronx. Efforts to get in touch with him have been unavailing.

Harlem's leading colored citizens are expressing their feelings with regard to what appears to be a drawing of the color line in the Police Department and are planning to call on Commissioner George V. McLaughlin for a conference on the matter. It is not believed that the Police Commissioner is aware of the situation, nor is it thought that he will countenance either real or apparent discrimination on part of his subordinate officers.

Pastors Express Opinions

The Rev. Dr. J. W. Brown, pastor of Mother A. M. E. Zion Church, one of the largest and most influential congregations in Harlem, declared that it would be deplorable if such prejudicial action should occur in the Police Department. Colored officers, said he, are among the most efficient on the force and are entitled to and should receive an absolute square deal from the higher officials.

The Rev Dr. A. Clayton Powell, of Abyssinian Baptist Church, also one of the first rank religious bodies of the community, said that there should be no semblance of injustice towards members of the Police Department because of difference in race or color. Every man on the force is a police officer, whether he be Negro, Jew, Irish, Italian, or anything else, and should be so regarded, and Negro policemen have given splendid service in all sections of the city without complaint from other racial groups.

The Rev. A. C. Garner, pastor of Grace Congregational Church of Harlem, just returned from his vacation, during which he attended the great Congregational conference at Detroit and took certain white speakers severely to task for referring to the colored workers as "you people," said that it is unthinkable that in the Police Department of this city there should be an immediate investigation and weeding out of such a condition if it is found to exist. There should be no color line of any sort, and if Officer Carter is efficient and capable, and entitled by seniority to the transfer he should receive it.

Koch Approved Carter.

To an implied suggestion that the business interests in the 125th street section might object, The Age was informed that Mr. Koch, president of the Board of Trade, and proprietor of one of the largest stores on 125th street, emphatically declared that there would be no such attitude taken, that 90 per cent of 125th street trade came from the colored citizens, and that it would be unfair and unjust to oppose the performance of any duty by an efficient and capable officer because of his color.

It is pointed out also that colored homeseekers have long since gone into the district below 125th street, a number of the largest and most modern apartment buildings in that section now being occupied by colored families. In fact, they are scattered through the district as far south as 110th street, with large groups in Lenox and Seventh avenues, around 118th and 110th streets. There is no longer a "black Belt" confined to the 130's and 140's, and so, if there is a thought to keep colored officers in that locality, it is without justification.

Among other citizens of Harlen who express themselves strongly to the effect that the colored men in the Police Department are entitled to be promoted or demoted strictly on their merits are the Revs. R. M. Bolden, F. A. Cullen Wm. P. Hayes' Wm Lloyd Imes, G. M. Oliver andFitzherbert Howell, realtor, Elder R. C. Lawson; Drs. U. Conradmany others. Vincent, E. P. Roberts, C. H. Rob- erts, Paul Collins and M. V Boutte

Policemen and Firemen - 1926 New York.

NEW YORK
GRAPHIC

OCT 28 1926

Negro Cop Wins Promotion for Vacation Results

The capture of two burglars by Patrolman Marion Moore, a negro, has resulted in his promotion to third grade detective, it is announced at Police Headquarters.

The burglars were caught by Moore when he was on his vacation.

Drawing his pistol, he captured the two prying loose the iron bars on a drug store window at 160 West 42d St.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

North Carolina.

WILSON N. C. TIMES
JANUARY 4, 1926

COLORED FIREMEN ENTERTAIN WHITES

White Members of Wilson Fire Department, Policemen, Town Officials and Colored Firemen of Tarboro, Farmville and Greenville Guests at Barbecue Supper

Last night the members of the colored company of the Wilson Fire Department entertained the members of the white department, town officials, policemen, town employees and members of the colored fire companies of Tarboro, Greenville and Farmville to a barbecue supper which was held in the Odd Fellows Hall on East Nash Street. The supper was a delightful occasion and Ben Mincey, foreman of the colored company, and his cohorts left no stone unturned in an effort to give the white firemen and other guests a good time.

The white guests were served their supper in one large room of the hall and the colored guests in another. A delicious barbecue and oyster supper was served all those in attendance. Mayor Silas R. Lucas made a short talk to the members of the colored company and on behalf of the guests thanked them kindly for their hospitality.

In the adjoining room the visiting colored firemen were having a time of their lives, their supper was featured with much handshaking and speechmaking. All of the visitors expressed their appreciation for the splendid supper their friends and brother firemen had prepared for them.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Observer
OCT 9 1926

The Open Forum

An Editorial Pad for the People.

Brevity and variety are desirable, and contributors to this department are urged to confine their articles to from 500 to 600 words. Editor reserves right to trim sails to suit the wind.

THE NEGRO POLICEMAN.

Argument That His Influence Among Negroes Would Work to Good of the Race.

To the Editor of The Observer:

In your paper of October 4, there appeared the following article:

Negro Reliance on Negro.

The American Sanatorium Association was in session last week in Washington, and among the reports was one of incidental interest. It was disclosure of the fact, in light of experience, that since negro doctors have been placed in charge of tubercular prevention among their race, "remarkable progress" has been made. It has been proved that "prevention work among negroes can be best carried out by negro doctors." Experience has proved that educational work among the negro race can be carried out under negro instructors, as, for example, witness and subsidence of frictions and dissensions at old Biddle, now Johnson C. Smith University, after change from white to negro instructors was made. In health work, especially, the negroes seem to have a distrust of white doctors. Dr. Hatfield's report showed that "while fewer than 100 negroes a year applied for treatment at the tubercular institute when work among their race was carried on exclusively by white agencies, the total has reached more than 2,600 annually since employment of negro doctors and negro nurses was inaugurated." It's negro preachers for negro churches; negro doctors for negro hospitals, and negro professors for negro colleges, if it is the best results that are sought.

Now, Mr. Editor, speaking of your comment on the above article I have this to say: That I am obliged to you for having printed the comment of Doctor Hatfield's report, for it gives me an opportunity to speak of a thing that has been on my mind for a long time. I wish to say that I agree with you as far as you go, and would also have concurred with you had you gone a little further and said, that the negro is the most fitted person to act as police officers among negroes.

Give us negro policemen in large cities and towns to do regular police work among negroes and we will obtain the best results from a criminal view point. For the same rule that applied to him along the line mentioned in Doctor Hatfield's report, in my humble judgment, would apply to him as a negro officer of the law.

I earnestly believe that crime among negroes would be reduced 75 per cent if our good white American citizens, especially in the South, could be prevailed upon to appoint colored men on the police force. It has been proven years and years ago that if a good detective was wanted a negro was employed. This was especially so in dealing with colored criminals. I believe also that we would make better citizens of the negro race if they were made to feel that they were equally responsible for the enforcement of the law and order, as the white race.

If it were not for politicians and politics, negroes would be appointed in office everywhere. Politics should play no part in the matter of enforcing the law and order. I hope to see the day come when my race will understand and be willing to assume its portion of the responsibility in upholding the law of the land.

Give us negro officers of the law and I promise you that every time you have a lynching you will have a dead officer. Give the negro a chance as other races are given to prove himself capable of performing any duty that might be assigned to him. Of course he has already proven himself proficient. That was done in all the wars we have had.

It is a grave mistake and a sin before the living God for any strong race of people to hold a weaker race down. When I was a small boy I was taught never to strike our adversary while down—give him a chance.

If it is right to call on the negro for his portion of tares to help support the Government then why not call on him in the same way to perform any other duty as other citizens might be called upon to do?

J. T. SANDERS.

Charlotte, October 25.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

North Carolina.

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J. T. SANDERS.

Charlotte, October 25.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

Ohio.

Race Deputy Resigns

CINCINNATI, O., May 13.—The last Republican holdover in the Department of Weights and Measures at the City Hall left the service last week when Henry Higgins, colored deputy, resigned after 12 years in the department. The job paid $1,800 a year. City Manager C. O. Sherill announced that no appointment had been made to fill the vacancy.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

Pennsylvania.

Woman's Scream Brings Detective To Her Aid; Later Dies In Hospital

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Aug. 5. Early Sunday morning Detective Bradley, of the Twentieth and Buttonwood streets station, was driving a police car on Fifteenth street, near Parrish, when he heard a woman screaming, "Murder! Police! Help!" in the house at 820 N. 15th street.

He knocked on the door and was answered by a man who tried to prevent him from entering. As Bradley pushed the man aside he was grappled with and struck with a blackjack.

Breaking loose, he made his way to the kitchen where he found Miss Agnes Hill, 23, lying on the floor with a bullet wound in her chest and the man who had apparently done the shooting, escaping out of the back door.

As Bradley leaned over to pick her up the man who had tried to prevent his entrance, grabbed him by the throat and bent him over a gas range. At this point, Frank Pierce, a cousin of the girl, and another man who had rushed in from the street came to Bradley's aid. In the fight which followed one of the rescuers was knocked unconscious and the thug escaped.

Miss Hill was sent to St. Joseph's hospital, where she died later.

Police searched the neighborhood until they found a house where a man answering the description of the man they sought had been seen to enter. Breaking in, they went to the second floor, where they found their man, who gave his name as Harry Woodwyn, in charge of a large still in full operation. Scattered about the room were large quantities of liquor and mash, all of which the detectives confiscated, and then arrested Woodwyn. He is being held for the coroner and search continues for his partner.

Blazing The Trail

OFFICER HENRY JONES
Of Duquesne, Pa.

The above is a likeness of Officer Henry Jones of Duquesne police department. He has served in this capacity for the last four years and has reflected much credit upon the members of our race as a result of his timely efforts in upholding the law of this city. He is a man of sound judgment and eminently fitted for the position he now holds. He hails from Alabama, has had much travel experience, grave and many; all serving to make him a well rounded out officer. We are, therefore, glad to take note of his service and herald the same through the columns of the Pittsburgh Courier. It may serve to encourage some struggling young man to make the desired mark in life.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

South Carolina.

Charleston, S. C. Also Has Colored Company Of Fire Fighters

Atlantic City, N. J., is not the only city in the country having a fire company consisting of all colored men from captains on down, as a release coming out from there and published in several newspapers last week stated.

In Charleston, S. C., a southern city having all of the traditions of the South, there is a company of fire fighters on the city payroll, comprising all colored from the chief down. This company has a modern Franco-American truck with telephone attachment, enabling fire fighters on the inside of buildings to communicate with their comrades on the outside. This group of colored firemen is rated as the crack company of the Charleston fire department.

The Journal and Guide is indebted to Mr. C. W. LeGrand, district manager of the National Benefit Life Insurance Company, for this information, Mr. LeGrand having in his possession photographs of the South Carolina colored fire company.

It is also stated that there is a similar fire organization in a city in Tennessee.

Policemen and Firemen - 1926

Tennessee.

CHAS. REDMON DROPPED FROM POLICE FORCE

Charles Redmon, colored member of the local police force, was discharged from his position on Monday afternoon following a hearing before Safety Director J. O. Walker on the charges of drunkenness and conduct unbecoming a city employe. 4-15-26

Safety Director J. O. Walker, in deciding the case, declared that the physical facts and the testimonf offered by the defense did not agree. Redmon admitted that his son, Charles, Jr., was drinking on the date in question and contended that it was the boy not the father involved in the case.

The text of the safety director's decision follows:

"Investigation in the case held on April 6, 1926, developed the fact that Officer Redmon's defense was based upon mistaken identity and an effort was made to show that the person in the car about 5 p. m., at 408 Morgan street was a son of the officer under charges.

"(1) In order to do this it was necessary for Officer Redmon to be at home at 4:30 p. m.

"(2) Officer Lunsford, Redmon's witness) testified that Officer Redmon was at the corner of Florida and Jackson streets at ten minutes to 5, this time being definitely fixed by Officer Lunsford as having occurred after he pulled the box at Patton and Willow streets at 4:30 p. m.

"(3) Officer Lunsford testified that Redmon went directly out Randolph street, picked up no one and did not drive west on Jackson.

"(4) Officer Redmon, therefore, would have gotten home at 5 p. m. (assuming he went home), and, according to testimony, his son left there 15 minutes thereafter going to Morgan street where he would have arrived at about 5:25, or after the complainant, DeWitt, had returned to the shop.

"I am, therefore, of the opinion that Officer Redmon is guilty of the specifications and charges and so find him, and direct that he be dropped from the police department of the city of Knoxville."

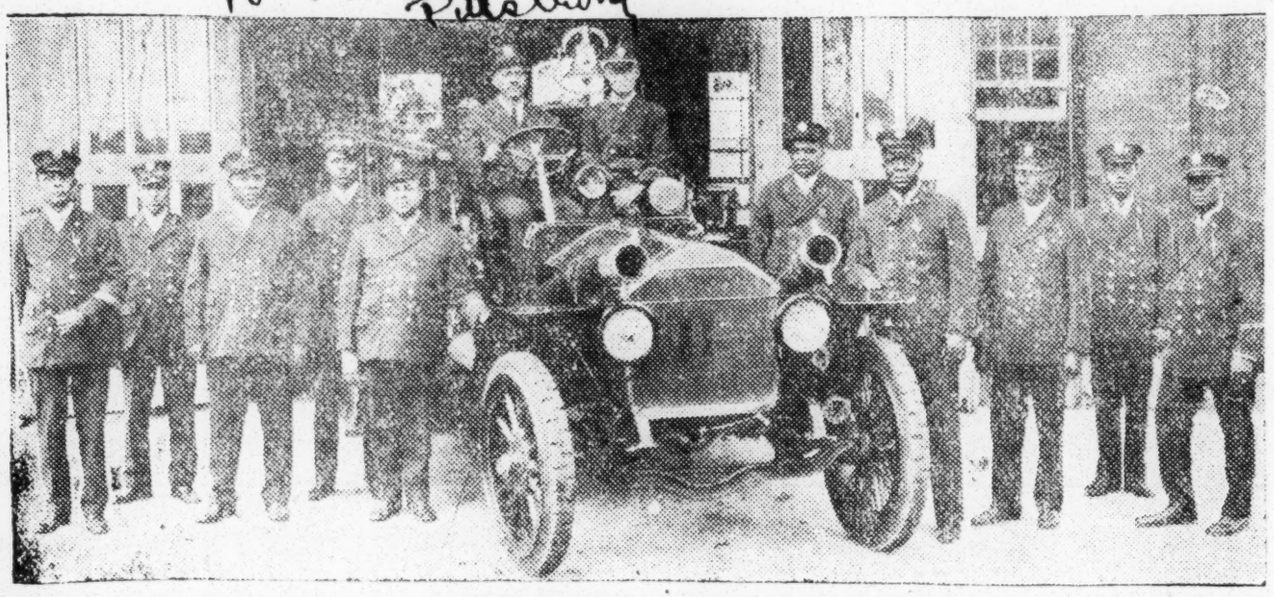
REPRESENTATION ON POLICE FORCE DECREASES

The fine recognition and consideration accorded that part of the local citizenship composed of the Negro race coming from the men who have been chosen to conduct the affairs of the city of Knoxville at different times over a period of many years, at which times a half dozen or more Negroes have been selected to serve as members of the police force in different capacities, has done more to elicit favorable comment from citizens of all sections, north, south, east and west, than any other one feature of the city's affairs. The experiment engaged in by the city fathers, more than a quarter of a century ago in selecting members of the colored race to serve on the force of the city's protectors, proved not only an interesting one, but the record established by the men who nave served showed that the city was greatly benefited because of the fine service that such men rendered in apprehending criminals and preventing crime. A precedent was established that has been emulated from time to time up to the present date. Other cities, even in the north and in the east, have followed Knoxville's example in placing on their police forces representatives of the colored race. The record of the late John Singleton, who rendered such effective service as a member of the detective force, attached to the local police department, is known far and wide. He proved a terror to all criminally inclined, and those who sought refuge in our locality after having committed crimes in other sections readily discovered their folly when they were apprehended by the ever alert John Singleton. Joseph Reynolds, Bud Kyle, Will Lillison, of the latter day group, proved a foe to evil doers, and the heads of the police department were ably assisted in tracing down crime due to the efforts of such men. Some of these have been removed by the hand of death, others have been retired because of physical disabilities brought on because of their effective service to the local citizenship.

For one cause or another during the last few years, some of which involved unfortunate circumstances, members of the racial group have been dropped from the local police force and surprise has been expressed that the race's quota on the force has not been kept up to the standard by the reappointment of others, although there have been those in the waiting line who are eligible. We respectfully direct the attention of the heads of our city government in charge of this department to the fact that the entire citizenship's interest will be served in an effective manner by the selection of upstanding representatives of the colored racial group to fill the vacancies that have recently come about in our police department, both as patrolmen and detectives, and it is the hope of that part of the citizenship composed of the colored race that selections will be made at an early date that will provide ample representation in such offices.

Nashville's Colored Fire Department

Courier
10-23-26 Pittsburg Pa.



The above picture represents Engine Company No. 11, of the Nashville Fire Department. They are rated as among the best in the city, with years of meritorious service behind them. R. B. Richardson, appointed October 25, 1892, is chief, and T. W. Brown is engineer. Reading from left to right they are U. P. Bone, R. E. Campbell, Al. H. Smith, D. L. Irving, substitute; L. T. McLin, Walter Buchanan, G. P. Morris, E. W. Waywood, asst. engineer; R. E. Silver, secretary; W. S. Harrison, lieutenant. Couriers may be secured from Clifford Coleman, 1906 Sixth avenue, North Nashville.

Policemen and Firemen- 1926

Texas.

MORE COLORED PATROLMEN NEEDED HERE!

Superintendent of Police Goodson, in submitting his 1926 budget, has informed the city fathers that the police department must be enlarged to cope with conditions arising with the rapid and marvelous growth and expansion of Houston.

No city is stronger than its police department, and where sufficient officers are not pressed into service to curb the depredations and activities of criminals, the citizens of such community are placed at a great disadvantage; in fact, they are in constant jeopardy. Houston Informer

The Informer expresses the desire to see about five colored men added to the Houston police force as patrolmen during 1926, at least; while as a matter of fact, sufficient colored patrolmen should be added to the local force to cover beats on all watches in Third, Fourth and Fifth wards—the so-called colored districts.

Going a bit further, this paper believes that if this matter is properly placed before the mayor and chief, and if sufficient money is available for the contemplated enlargement of the local police force, our race may get additional representation in the police department. 1-23-26

Even if the desired number of colored patrolmen can not be added to the local police force during 1926, The Informer urges that Officer Dave Burney, who covers the San Felipe district alone, be given a running mate, since he has been covering this beat by himself, on his watch, since the incapacitation of Officer W. E. ("Ned") Jones.

JORDAN AND STEVENSON ADDED TO HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT; LONG AGITATION NETS RESULTS

It is a source of encouragement to the colored people of Houston, Harris County, and the state, to know that the Negro is being considered in all things for civic betterment here. Two colored men, E. L. Jordan and W. M. Stevenson have been appointed uniform officers of the city. The matter of colored policemen for our city has been discussed for some time with the mayor and chief of police by the Committee on Race Relations, and this is one of the evidences of the work that is being accomplished by the committee. It is also encouraging to know how well these two men were received by the mayor, and his instructions to these men were all that could be expected by any race of people from the chief executive of the city.

Houston Informer 3-21-26 Houston Texas

One of the many things the mayor said to these men was, "You are to represent the very best in your race, as well as the lowly and this is an opening for your people that will mean much if you prove worthy."

At the police station Chief T. C. Goodson gave them words of instruction similar to those given by the mayor, and said, "You are full-fledged officers of a great city; maintain the dignity of your position." They were placed under a sergeant for instruction and he in turn received them with open hands as a superior officer, and instructed them just as he would have done any of the officers. A number of the policemen received them cordially. In turn they were given their uniforms and put to work on their beat, Tuesday, 7 a. m. This information is given for the benefit of the colored people of the city of Houston, Texas, and the nation.

(Signed) REV. S. W. JOHNSON,
Chairman of the Commission on Inter-Racial Co-operation (Colored Divn.).

Texas Chief Fires 3 Coppers Refusing Duty With Blacks

MAYOR OF CITY UPHOLDS CHIEF IN HIS ACTION

Houston, Texas Is Scene Of Combat

Houston, Texas, June 11. —Chief of Police Tom Goodson summarily dismissed three police officers from the force late Thursday afternoon because they felt they were too good to walk the streets of the city with fellow officers who skins happened to be a little more pigmented than their own.

Friday, it was hinted, another was slated to go who had the same opinion as the three dismissed officers.

The three men dismissed from service were, J. B. Alford, A. O. Arthur and J. A. Porter, all in the service less than a year. Under the rules of the civil service commission of this state it will be impossible for the men to appeal from the decision as one of the commission's stipulations to officers states they must have been in the service eighteen months before an appeal from the chief of police is possible.

Chief Walked With Them

After calling the men into his office and dismissing them, Chief Goodson then went into the afternoon officer's assembly and told all gathered there what he had done and invited those who did not approve of his actions in the matter to hand in their stars at once.

According to one of the officers who was present, Chief Goodson had the following to say:

"I have just fired three men for refusing to walk up the street with a Negro. When I was on a beat 14 years ago I walked up the street many a time with one. I understand that some more of you are objecting to this. If you are, don't talk about it on the outside—just come in and see me."

The chief intimated to the men, this office radded, that they could hand in their badges if they did not like the plan of marching in squad formation from the police station at Preston Avenue and Caroline Street up to Main street, with the two objectionable officers,